

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Not to mention their restriction of freedom of the press in prohibiting the names of dead hero's from the Iraq War from being Honored on stations under their control.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large unethical companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, reflecting the biases of its excentric and fundamentalist owners, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.